

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

Claim 22 (currently amended): A lighter, comprising:

a lighter housing which comprises an upper cover having a protuberance downwardly extended from a cover side edge thereof and a case having a case side edge with a predetermined thickness and an edge port having an opening downwardly extended from an upper edge of said case at said case side edge thereof, wherein said case further has two longitudinal grooves indently formed along two sidewalls of said edge port;

a gas container received in said case of said lighter housing for storing liquid inflammable gas;

a combustion device communicatively connected to said gas container for controlling a flow of said inflammable gas;

means for igniting said inflammable gas in said combustion device; and

a connector having an upper recess portion fittingly receiving said protuberance of said upper cover, wherein two sidewalls of said connector are shaped and sized to fittingly engage with said longitudinal grooves respectively ~~so as to minimize said thickness of said case side edge of said case~~, such that said connector is slid into said opening to firmly mount said connector to said case until said upper recess portion of said connector sits on an edge of said opening; and

a connecting device which contains a hole transversely formed on said protuberance and two transverse holes formed on said connector at said recess portion thereof to coaxially align with said hole of said protuberance when said protuberance is disposed in said recess portion of said connector, wherein said connecting device further comprises a bolt slidably inserted into said two transverse holes of said connector through said holes of said protuberance to pivotally connect said protuberance of said upper cover with said connector at said recess portion thereof, wherein ~~said bolt has a length shorter than a distance of said two sidewalls of said connector at said two holes thereof such that~~ when said connector is slid into said edge port, said connecting device is hidden within said case side edge of said case at a

position below said upper edge of said case so as to pivotally connect said upper cover with said case.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The lighter, as recited in claim 22, wherein said connector has an inner side and an outer side having a width larger than a width of said inner side to form said two sidewalls of said connector ~~extending in an inclined manner to fit into said two longitudinal grooves respectively so as to minimize said thickness of said side edge of said case when said connector is slidably engaged with said case.~~

Claim 24 (currently amended): The lighter, as recited in claim 23, wherein each of said transverse holes is a through hole transversely formed on said connector at a position close to said outer side thereof ~~to strengthen a pivotal connection between said protuberance of said upper cover and said connector through said bolt.~~

Claim 25 (previously presented): The lighter, as recited in claim 22, wherein said thickness of said case side edge of said case is substantially larger than a thickness of said connector such that when said connector is received in said edge port, said connecting device is embedded within said case side edge of said case in a hidden manner.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The lighter, as recited in claim 23, wherein said thickness of said case side edge of said case is substantially larger than a thickness of said connector such that when said connector is received in said edge port, said connecting device is embedded within said case side edge of said case in a hidden manner.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The lighter, as recited in claim 24, wherein said thickness of said case side edge of said case is substantially larger than a thickness of said connector such that when said connector is received in said edge port, said connecting device is embedded within said case side edge of said case in a hidden manner.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The lighter, as recited in claim 22, wherein said thickness of said connector has a range from 1.0mm to 11mm.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The lighter, as recited in claim 24, wherein said thickness of said connector has a range from 1.0mm to 11mm.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The lighter, as recited in claim 27, wherein said thickness of said connector has a range from 1.0mm to 11mm.